Acknowledgements

At very outset, I would like express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr Asha Kuthari Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, Department of English, Gauhati University, for her invaluable guidance not only at various stages of my research, but also at difficult moments of my life. Without her inspiration, constant support, help, and motivation, this study would not have been possible. I owe her much for her extremely valuable suggestions, her unending generosity with books from her personal library, her providing me with space in her own cabin to study, and most importantly for giving me her valuable time. In fact, I feel words are not enough to express my indebtedness to Dr Chaudhuri – for believing in me and for guiding me when nobody was there to show me the direction. The support I received from her is unmatched: the imprint of which will remain ever fresh in me. I acknowledge with immense gratitude the very special role she played in the completion of this research.

As per the revised PhD regulation, 2010, of Gauhati University, a few parts of this thesis were published in two research journals. The two papers are: (1) “Women and Violence in Contemporary Indian Writing: Vijay Tendular’s Kamala and Manjula Padmanabhan’s Lights Out in the journal of Social Change and Development (ISSN- 0975-4016, Vol. VII, November, 2010), published by OKD institute of social change and development, and (2) “Women, Violence, and Theatre: A Reading of Vijay Tendulkar’s Kanyadaan” in the journal Dibrugarh University Journal of English studies (ISSN-0975-5659, Vol.19, 2010). I would like to thank professor Dr Udayon Misra, editor, the journal of Social Change and Development and Payal Jain and Naseem F. Akhtar, editors, the Dibrugarh University Journal of English Studies, for their encouragement.

I also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my teachers of the Department of English, Gauhati University for their constant encouragement and help in this entire venture. From my MA days till date they have been a major source of my inspiration.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Ranjit Kumar Dev Goswami, Department of English, Gauhati University, for elucidating many theoretical, philosophical, and historical ideas since the days I was a post graduate student. Prof. Goswami always took interest in the progress of my work. I thank him for his precious suggestions. I also
extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Nandana Dutta, Professor, Department of English, Gauhati University, for helping me with her valuable suggestions from the initial stage of this study to its completion.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Apama Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor, Department of English, Gauhati University for her motivating lectures since my post graduation days that provoked me to work harder and build up my confidence. Her concern for my work always inspired me. I also thank her for clarifying my doubts regarding research methodology. I also extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Bibhash Choudhury, Associate Professor, Department of English, Gauhati University for encouraging and helping me with his valuable advice and insight.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Pradipta Borgohain, Associate Professor, Department of English, Gauhati University for his encouragement and concern. I also extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Sanjeev Kumar Nath, Reader, Department of English, Gauhati University for motivating me at times, and also helping me with his advice. I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Manashi Bora, Assistant Professor, Department English, Gauhati University for encouraging and helping me with his valuable advice and insight.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Pradipta Borgohain, Associate Professor, Department of English, Gauhati University for his encouragement and concern. I also extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Sanjeev Kumar Nath, Reader, Department of English, Gauhati University for motivating me at times, and also helping me with his advice. I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Manashi Bora, Assistant Professor, Department English, Gauhati University for encouraging and helping me with his valuable advice and insight.

I extend my thanks to ICHR, New Delhi, for considering me eligible for receiving the two years Junior Research Fellowship. The financial aid provided by ICHR was indeed a great help for me to carry on this research.

I take this opportunity to thank the staff of the K.K.Handiqui Library, Gauhati University, Guwahati; the IITG Library, Guwahati; the District Library, Guwahati; the Dibrugarh University Library, Dibrugarh; the NEHU Library, Shillong; the Central Library,
Tezpur University, Tezpur; the University of Delhi Library, Delhi; the JNU Library, Delhi; the Sahitya Academy Library, Delhi; the Sangeet Natak Academy Library, Delhi; the NSD Library, Delhi; the Nehru Memorial Library, Delhi; the JB College Library, Jorhat; the B. Barooah College Library, Guwahati; the WSRC Library, GU, Guwahati; and the WSRC Library, DU, Dibrugarh.

I also extend my thankfulness to all my dear friends and seniors – Smita, Purabi ba, Julie Ba, Doel, Darshana Madhuleema ba, Birinchi, Arunima ba, Jayanta, Bendang, Maheshwari, Himangshu, Gayatri ba, Simanta da, Mridumoloy da, Jnanendra, Payal ba, Binita, Kakoli ba, Pranjol da, Lakshminath, Debajani, and Dhruba, - for their support and help in the completion of this study. My special thanks go to Jyoti for his much needed help in proof reading.

I am thankful to the office staff, Department of English, Gauhati University for their valued assistance during this period. I also express my thanks to Martinet Computer, Jalukbari, Guwahati, for technically supporting me in giving final shape to this thesis.

I also thank God for blessing me with such a caring and loving family – Deuta, Maa, Bhanti, and Munu without whose support I would have been a nobody. I am highly indebted to Deuta – my first teacher, for introducing me to the world English literature. From him only I learnt to internalise the meaning of those three words ‘hard work’ ‘dedication’ and ‘perseverance’. The emotional support and encouragement I received from Maa during this period is undeniably without comparison. She has always been a best friend of mine standing by me in every step of life. I owe much to Bhanti and Munu for being with me in my hard times and helping me to go on. I am also indebted to my mother-in-law whom I met at the last stage of my research. During this period, her support, encouragement, and also her providing me with books from her personal library, boosted my enthusiasm.

The only person with whom I first discussed my dream of pursuing research is Basab - my husband; those early words of encouragement that I received from him have kept me going on till date. The completion of this thesis is a credit to him.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this thesis to my Maa & Deuta…

Saurabhi Sarmah